Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03 CU-02 AID-05 MCT-01 /079 W

-----152054Z 050314 /64

R 151505Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1764
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

CONFIDENTIAL CAIRO 2777

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINT, EG

SUBJECT: SMALL STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS CONTINUE

REF: CAIRO 2644

1. AKHBAR FEB 15 REPORTS THAT DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE AT CAIRO AND AIN SHAMS UNIVERSITIES MET PRIVIOUS DAY TO DISCUSS CASES OF STUDENTS WHO ON FEB 12 HAD SOUGHT INCITE DEMONSTRATIONS. REPORTEDLY, CAIRO UNIVERSITY EXPELLED ONE STUDENT AND SUSPENDED SIX FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR. AT AIN SHAMS, COMMITTEE DECIDED STUDENT UNION WAS DOING ITS BEST TO "EXPLAIN" THE SITUATION TO RECALCITRANT STUDENTS AND THAT THE STUDENT UNION LEADERS HAD SUCCESSFULLY DISSUADED SOME ERSTWHILE DEMONSTRATORS "FROM ORGANIZING A MARCH."

2. STUDENT UNIONS AT BOTH CAIRO CAMPUSES HAVE ISSUED STATE-MENTS, AFTER DISCUSSION WITH AN APPROVAL OF FACULTY, THAT RIGHT TO AIR VIEWS (INCLUDING DISTRIBUTION OF LEAFLETS AND WALL POSTERS), IS GUARANTEED IF CULTURAL COMMITTEE OR RELAVANT FACULTY GIVES PRIOR APPROVAL. IT IS PRESUMABLY BECAUSE SUCH PRIOR CONFIDENTIAL

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APPROVAL WAS NOT OBTAINED THAT EIGHT INDIVIDUALS WERE ARRESTED AT CAIRO CAMPUSES FEB 14 FOR PASSING OUT LEAFLETS. (ONE OF EIGHT IS DAUGHTER OF LEADING EGYPTIAN COMMUNIST FUAD MURSI.) MOST AND PERHAPS ALL OF EIGHT ARE NOT STUDENTS.

3. COMMENT: DEMONSTRATIONS FROM FEB 12 TO 14 WERE APPARENTLY LIMITED TO SMALL NUMBER OF AGITATORS. MININT TELLS US THAT ON

FEB 13, FOR EXAMPLE, 250 "COMMUNISTS AND NASSERISTS" SOUGHT ARRANGE MARCH TO PEOPLES ASSEMBLY TO PROTEST 99 PERCENT APPROVAL OF PRESIDENT'S REFERENDUM. OTHER STUDENTS, CONTROLLED BY MININT, PERSUADED THEM BY FORCE TO GIVE UP THIS ATTEMPT. MININT OFFICIALS REMAIN CONCERNED AT POSSIBILITY OF MORE EFFORTS ORGANIZE UNIVERSITY PROTESTS BUT HOPE TO BE ABLE NEUTRALIZE INCITERS BY USING OTHER STUDENTS, RATHER THAN BY BRINGING POLICE ON CAMPUSES.

4. UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATORS ARE DOING THEIR BEST BY HOLDING CONTINUAL FACULTY/STUDENT MEETINGS. PROBLEM AT CAIRO ARTS FACULTY PROBABLY BE CONTAINED BY ADMINISTRATION DECISION BEGIN FINAL EXAMINATIONS THERE FEB. 14. MININT PUBLIC ALLEGATIONS THAT NON-STUDENTS ARE PROMINENT AMONG INCITERS SEEM LIKELY TO BE ACCURATE. EILTS

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